

Abubakar apparently began a serious effort to release political detainees, the lack of authoritative information regarding the exact number of remaining detainees served to confirm the fact that Abacha-era security forces were able to put persons in detention with very little concern about due process or accountability.

In addition, several of the important military decrees, which grant the security forces sweeping powers of arrest and detention, remain on the books.

Given the longstanding pattern of human rights abuses and some uncertainty about how widely accepted the new civilian president will be, the report acknowledges that there is significant potential for a continued unacceptable human rights environment in Nigeria.

Mr. President, I have long been concerned about the human rights situation in Nigeria. I have introduced several pieces of legislation designed to encourage democratization and respect for the rule of law in that country. I desperately want to support an active and proactive U.S. policy toward the country. For now, most signals seem to indicate that the transition will continue to be smooth and peaceful. However, I am concerned that in truly wishing the best for the Nigerian people and in looking for ways to support the transition, the United States will in effect hold Nigeria's rulers to a lower standard of good governance than it traditionally has demanded. I know that the administration is anxious to work with the new government, and if all goes well, I would encourage that.

The conduct of the elections last weekend did not inspire much confidence in the process, and this is a great disappointment. However, it does not mean we should throw in the towel in the fight to foster a democratic Nigeria. No. In fact the opposite is true. We must continue to be vigilant and encourage Nigeria and its new leadership to follow the right path. This means the United States should continue to help Nigeria develop democratic institutions and to strengthen political and civic organizations at all levels of government. We should help the military remove itself from political life and become integrated into democratic society. But we should do this carefully and thoughtfully. And that is the best way we can help Nigeria help itself.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of a March 1 New York Times editorial on this subject be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Mar. 1, 1999]
NIGERIA'S PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Olusegun Obasanjo, a former general, will be the next president of Nigeria, according to

preliminary election results. His selection reflects the complexities of power in Nigeria today. When the country's current leader, Gen. Abdulsalami Abubakar, took over last June, he promised a transition to civilian rule after 15 years of disaster under general after general. Mr. Abubakar has kept his promise. But the transition is incomplete. Military officers, who largely bankrolled Mr. Obasanjo's candidacy, will continue to loom over his government. Mr. Obasanjo will have to break with them to have any success in improving life in Africa's most populous nation.

General Abubakar took power after the death of Gen. Sani Abacha, one of the most corrupt and certainly the most despotic of Nigeria's recent military rulers. Their thievery and mismanagement turned Nigeria, one of the world's richest nations during the oil boom of the 1970's, into one of the world's poorest. General Abacha snuffed out political life in this once-vibrant country, jailing many of his rivals, including General Obasanjo.

In his nine months in power, General Abubakar reversed much of the political crackdown. Most political prisoners are now free. Newspapers publish openly. This election was the first in many years in which the Government did not dictate the number of parties, although General Obasanjo's opponent has complained about fraud in Saturday's voting.

But General Abubakar's early promises to bring corrupt or brutal officers to justice have melted away. Some political opponents arrested on trumped up charges are still in jail. General Abacha's decrees muzzling the press are still on the books, and lately some journalists who write sensitive stories have been harassed and their publications confiscated. Police have killed protesters, with the worst repression in the Delta, Nigeria's poorest region despite being the source of its oil wealth.

Many Nigerians hope that Mr. Obasanjo's government will end the military's political role, but this is unlikely. Mr. Obasanjo, who was president from 1976 to 1979, is the only military ruler to leave office voluntarily. Yet he is still close to the armed forces. Military men finance his party, and one of its biggest supporters is Ibrahim Babangida, among Nigeria's less savory former military rulers. That money allowed Mr. Obasanjo to build a political machine that won a majority in both houses of parliament in elections earlier in February.

Desperately needed economic reforms and anti-corruption measures will anger officers, the main beneficiaries of the present morass. Reversing the poverty and environmental destruction of the Delta is another urgent task that may be hindered by Mr. Obasanjo's links to the armed forces, which are hated there. Those ties may also prevent him from calming ethnic tensions. He is a Yoruba from Nigeria's southwest, but many Yoruba distrust him, viewing him as closer to the northern army officials who have traditionally run Nigeria. To have any success in tackling these daunting problems, Mr. Obasanjo must make his government not the last stage in a military transition, but the first stage of full civilian rule.

Mr. FEINGOLD. I thank the Chair. I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands

adjourned until 10:30 tomorrow morning.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, March 9, 1999, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate March 8, 1999:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

JULIO M. FUENTES, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE THIRD CIRCUIT, VICE ROBERT E. COWEN, RETIRED.

ROBERT A. KATZMANN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT, VICE JON O. NEWMAN, RETIRED.

M. JAMES LORENZ, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA VICE RUDI M. BREWSTER, RETIRED.

W. ALLEN PEPPER, JR., OF MISSISSIPPI, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI VICE L. T. SENTER, JR., RETIRED.

KAREN E. SCHREIER, OF SOUTH DAKOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF SOUTH DAKOTA VICE RICHARD H. BATTEY, RETIRED.

IN THE COAST GUARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED INDIVIDUAL FOR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT REGULAR OFFICER IN THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 14, U.S. CODE, SECTION 211:

To be lieutenant

JAMES W. BARTLETT, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT AS A PERMANENT PROFESSOR IN THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY IN THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 4333 (B):

To be colonel

PATRICK FINNEGAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED ARMY NATIONAL GUARD OF THE UNITED STATES OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 12203 AND 12211:

To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER D. LATCHFORD, 0000
JAMES E. BRAMAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

LEE G. KENNARD, 0000
JAMES A. MATZ, 0000
THADDEUS A. PODBIELSKI, 0000
FORTUNATO I. STANZIALE, JR., 0000
MICHAEL E. THOMPSON, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be colonel

WESLEY D. COLLIER, 0000
RUDOLPH DANIELS, SR., 0000
JACOB Z. GOLDSTEIN, 0000
LARRY E. HARRELSON, 0000
HARLAND C. MERRIAM, JR., 0000
GARY L. MOORE, 0000
THOMAS L. MUSSELMAN, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADES INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK (*) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 626, AND 3064:

To be colonel

DAVID E. BELL, 0000

To be lieutenant colonel

KATHLEEN DAVID-BAJAR, 0000
*RICHARD W. THOMAS, 0000

To be major

*WILLIAM J. KEELEY, 0000
HOWARD LOCKWOOD, 0000

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

STANLEY A. PACKARD, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624: